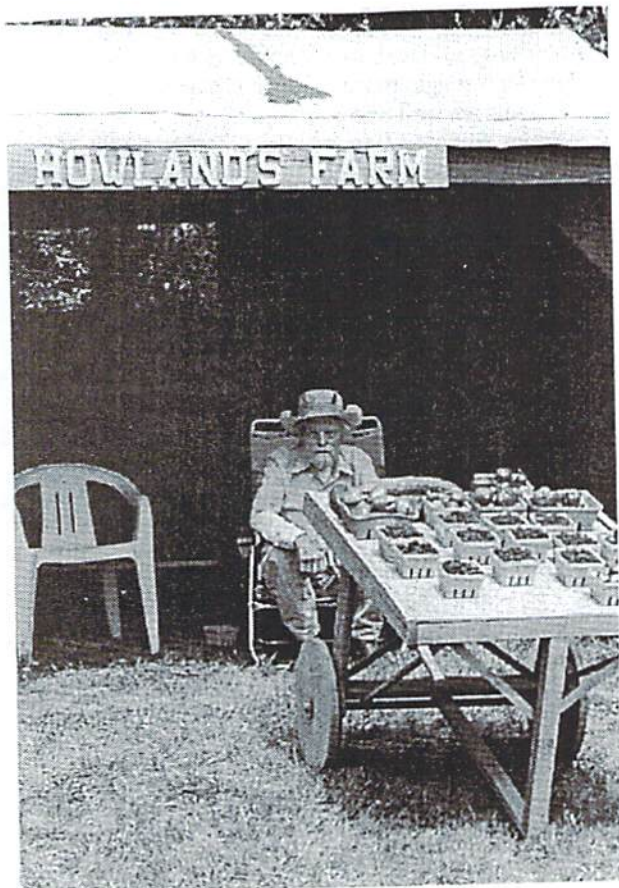


Howland's Farm Enjoys Long History in Town



Roger Howland sits with produce he sells from at his Bay Rd. farm stand.

Roger Howland is the man behind the strawberries, raspberries and peaches many people have enjoyed annually each summer, since the 1960s, from the Howland's Farm roadside stand on Bay Rd.

Born on Halloween in 1915, Roger was raised in Brockton; however, every summer since he can remember he went with his family to his grandparents' farm located between Chestnut St. and Bay Rd.

After graduating from high school, Roger moved to Duxbury. His ancestry dates back to Henry Howland who arrived in Plymouth on the "2nd boat" from England; John Howland, Henry's brother, was one of the 102 Pilgrims on the *Mayflower*. Eventually, the Howlands traveled north and settled in the Standish Shore area.

On his grandparents' farm, Roger learned the workings of not only gardening but caring for the livestock, which included a cow, chickens, pigs, and a horse. The farm crops consisted of a variety of vegetables including squash, asparagus, and corn.

The farm itself is an interesting place. There are several home-made birdfeeders there. Over the years Roger has identified approximately 290 species of birds and is familiar with many of their pitches. His late sister Helen Pisano was also an avid birder, who volunteered many years at the Manomet Bird Observatory. When asked what his favorite bird call is, Roger said with a sense of humor, "The cackle of the crow...followed by any variety of wren, especially Carolina wrens." Birds he has seen at the feeders include tufted titmice, red cardinals, ruby throated hummingbirds, gold finches and,

gray blue and green herons. Roger also has a talent with wood carving. Among his collection of bird species he has whittled from pine and bass wood is a flock of Canada geese.

Roger says the strawberry season was cut short this year because of June's heavy rain. The raspberries are growing abundantly and he expects them to keep producing through September. The peach grove is also doing well. Varieties of peach trees include the yellow fruited Monroe, Early Red Haven and Sweet Haven, and there are a couple of Bell of Georgia trees which produce a white fruit peach that is a bit more succulent than the yellow. An average peach tree will produce fruit for 4 or 5 seasons he said.

Anyone who has lived in town 50 years or more knows Roger because he or she is from a period in town when everyone knew everyone else. Anyone who has frequented the farm stand should know his produce is organic and a product of a labor of love that reflects the simple way of life, close to nature, that Roger enjoys.

The days the farm stand is open depends on when the fruit is ready to be picked -- Look for the signs.